

Ref. T2/6.04

**MASTER PLAN OF SHORE-BASED FACILITIES FOR THE
GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM
(GMDSS MASTER PLAN)**

Introduction

1 This circular* supersedes GMDSS/Circ.6, and contains the latest information (April 1996) based upon replies received from Member Governments in response to the most up-to-date questionnaires (MSC/Circ.468/Rev.2, COM/Circ.126 and MSC/Circ.641), which were revised by the sixty-fifth session of the Maritime Safety Committee (9 to 17 May 1995) and incorporated into the questionnaire (MSC/Circ.684) set out at annex 14.

2 Regulation 5, chapter IV of the amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention adopted in 1988 for the purpose of introducing the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) therein requires each Contracting Government to make available, as it deems practical and necessary, either individually or in co-operation with other Contracting Governments, appropriate shore-based facilities for space and terrestrial radiocommunication services having due regard to the recommendations of the Organization. These services are:

- .1 a radiocommunication service utilizing geostationary satellites in the Maritime Mobile-Satellite Service;
- .2 a radiocommunication service utilizing polar orbiting satellites in the Mobile-Satellite Service;
- .3 the Maritime Mobile Service in the bands between 156 MHz and 174 MHz;
- .4 the Maritime Mobile Service in the bands between 4,000 kHz and 27,500 kHz; and
- .5 the Maritime Mobile Service in the bands between 415 MHz and 535 kHz and between 1,605 kHz and 4,000 kHz.

* For reasons of economy and to ease the IMO Printing Section's workload, this circular, which is updated at frequent intervals, is issued in loose-leaf format. This will allow the easy substitution by those using the circular of only those pages on which changes have been made when they are circulated in the future.

Regulation 5 also provides that:

"Each Contracting Government undertakes to provide the Organization with pertinent information concerning the shore-based facilities in the Maritime Mobile Service, Mobile-Satellite Service and Maritime Mobile-Satellite Service, established for sea areas which it has designated off its coasts."

3 This circular includes all corrections made to GMDSS/Circ.6 by Member Governments and information provided by ITU, WMO, Inmarsat, COSPAS-SARSAT, the NAVTEX Co-ordinating Panel and the International SafetyNET Co-ordinating Panel.

4 Governments are invited to check the information contained in this circular and inform the Secretariat of any desired amendments thereto **not later than 31 October 1996** so that they can be included in the next edition of the Master Plan.

5 Governments, who have not yet responded to the questionnaire, given in annex 14, are invited to do so as soon as possible.

6 Any amendments, responses to the questionnaire and relevant inquiries should be forwarded to:

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London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Tel: +44-171-735-7611
Fax: +44-171-587-3210

7 Member Governments, ITU, ICAO, WMO, IHO, Inmarsat and the COSPAS-SARSAT Partners are requested to bring this circular, and the information annexed hereto, to the attention of maritime, aviation, telecommunication, hydrographic and meteorological authorities, SAR authorities, Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCCs), Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centres (ARCCs), Coast Earth Stations (CESs), Coast Stations (CSs), COSPAS-SARSAT Mission Control Centres (MCCs), hydrographers, shipowners, training institutions and seafarers.

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DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE GMDSS MASTER PLAN

DEFINITIONS

NAV/MET Area *means* **a geographical sea area, as shown in the appendix**, for the purpose of co-ordinating the transmission of radio navigational warnings (NAVAREA) and meteorological information (METAREA).

Monitor stations *include* **remote-controlled stations.**

ABBREVIATIONS

AOR-E	-	Atlantic Ocean Region-East
AOR-W	-	Atlantic Ocean Region-West
ARCC	-	Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre
CES	-	Coast Earth Station
DSC	-	Digital Selective Calling
HF	-	High Frequency
IOR	-	Indian Ocean Region
LUT	-	COSPAS-SARSAT Local User Terminal
MCC	-	COSPAS-SARSAT Mission Control Centre
MF	-	Medium Frequency
MRCC	-	Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre
MRSC	-	Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre
NBDP	-	Narrow-band direct printing
NCS	-	Network Co-ordinating Station
N.I.	-	No Information
NM	-	Nautical Mile(s)
POR	-	Pacific Ocean Region
RCC	-	Rescue Co-ordination Centre
RX	-	Receiver
TBD	-	To be decided
TX	-	Transmitter
UTC	-	Co-ordinated Universal Time

Date of operation indicated by shaded appearance (i.e. **Planned[1.2.1992]**) means that the date has already passed but its operation has not been confirmed yet.

APPENDIX

**GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS FOR CO-ORDINATING AND PROMULGATING
RADIO-NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS**

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